

# ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CONGREGATION 1861-1961

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In the middle of the 19th century, the settlement of Mishicot was already quite a busy little community. It had quite a number of the enterprises typical of the pioneer days that attracted people to come and settle these parts. As was the case in most unsettled areas, the lumber business gave the first opportunity to immigrants to settle for a reasonable length of time. The Smith Lumber Company was the one to set up their operations around Mishicot in the year 1855.

Among those who settled here, there were also a good number of staunch believers in the Lord who realized that their successful immigration from the European countries was not merely a case of good luck but that their prayers for guidance and protection had been answered and they were now privileged to be a part of something new and wonderful in a new continent. There were settlers from more than one country in this area but whether they traveled here together or whether they met each other after they settled, as is customary, people with the same interests, customs, and ideas just naturally seem to bond together and enjoy each other's companionship and friendship. Some very likely moved along with the lumbering frontier but many saw that the land which grew the splendid lumber-yielding trees also would provide for them and their families if used to raise crops for food and feed for livestock. Thus the agricultural industry continued or followed the lumber business and still is one of the main industries one hundred years later.

These more permanent residents of one hundred years ago realized that having shelter and food was not all that they needed. They also desired to take care of the needs of their souls. There were those households where Christian training was certainly taken care of by the parents but these also must have seen the need and the opportunity for some organized method to bring more people into God's Kingdom and strengthen their faith also with an opportunity to hear His Word from a preacher who was trained to explain the Truth to them.

It seems that there was a plan already at that time by which a systematic procedure was followed to keep preachers of the Word going with the immigration and frontier movements. A preacher was sent out to work in a county who seemingly would try to establish a congregation in each township and as it became necessary, have more preachers come to take care of these congregations as they grew so that eventually each township would be able to have its congregation and preacher. That goal has not been accomplished yet to this day and, of course, may not for a long time if ever. We can safely assume that this plan played a part in the organization of St. Peter's congregation of Mishicot. Undoubtedly the county missionary called on the people of this community a few times throughout the year and would encourage them to speak to neighbors and friends to create a desire for a congregation to be formed. The transportation of the missionaries was either walking, horseback, or buggy which would take quite a few weeks to cover the circuit of all the townships in a county. The

zeal, desire, or fire of faith was therefore needed to be kept alive between the visits of the missionary by reading, studying and talking of the Word by the people themselves with the blessed help of the Holy Spirit. That subject is certainly missing from our desired materials to read, study and converse on in our every day lives today. Are our blessings of having regular services, having regular opportunities to hear God's Word appreciated in 1961 or are they merely taken for granted? As we try to remember and appreciate what our forefathers began for us one hundred years ago, let us readily admit we are doing less than they did when we compare their means with our improved, modern, wonderful conveniences. Let us also pray for an increased zeal and fervor to use our present day knowledge and means to the glory of God and not merely for bodily pleasures and desires now, and through our second century of existence as a congregation.

The men of the community of Mishicot who had the faith in Jesus Christ and longed for the hearing of God's Word so that they have been called the organizers of the congregation of Mishicot township 100 years ago were: John Bahls, Claus Schweim, Friedrich Schriever, A. Jens, John Sievert, Friedrich George, Louis Barthels, Friedrich Drews, and Carl Wilsmann. There were others besides these who made up the group in 1861. These seemed to be the committee to see to the organization of the congregation. The date this was recorded as the day the formal organization details were completed are in the church records as May 20, 1861. We found that upon looking at legal records at the Manitowoc County Courthouse that the Articles of Incorporation were filed there first Feb. 19, 1871. Many of us noticed that legal recording and records were not done as meticulously and methodically then as they are done now. The first church services were conducted in a schoolhouse on cemetery hill across the road from the Twin Rivers Co-op, formerly Seibold's Mill. The small flock was served by Rev. Goldammer, then a pastor of the Manitowoc congregation and one of the pioneer preachers of the Wisconsin Synod. The Mishicot Lutherans were affiliated with the Synod since that time.

When the Two Rivers congregation was organized and a Pastor Butels was called to its pulpit, the Mishicot congregation became his sub-charge (1863-65). His immediate successors were Pastor Quehl (1865-68) and Pastor Zuberier (1868-72). While Pastor Zuberier was in charge of the Mishicot congregation, several signs of material progress were noticed. It was in 1871 that the Articles of Incorporation were filed with the formal naming of the organization as Evangelical Lutheran St. Peter's Congregation. Officers of the congregation were also elected at this meeting of the congregation. Three trustees elected for a three-year term and so chosen by length of term that only one be elected each year. They were Carl Wilsmann, President; Friedrich Drews, Secretary; and Dietrich Knickrehm. On April 4, 1871, the congregation obtained the deed to a part of the present property we now own. It was lots No. 6 and No. 7 of Block 17, or that area now taken up by the parsonage and open lawn and shrub space between church and parsonage. These lots were purchased from Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, widow of Daniel Smith, the owner of the lumbering concern of Mishicot, for a total price of \$35.00.

From 1872-74 the Mishicot people were served by Pastors Nietman and Frankenstein. The congregation had in these eleven to thirteen years grown to the size that they were now able to supply

Pastor Frankenstein with a place to live. The house was also used as a school for Christian instructions preceding confirmation. The structure is still used as the home of the Matt Pribek family and is located a short distance out of the village limits toward the northwest on Highway 147. When Pastor Frankenstein left, Mishicot was served by Pastor Jaeger, both from his station in Two Rivers and later while he served the Gibson Congregation. Thus Mishicot became a sub-charge of the Gibson congregation and the connection lasted until 1881 when Pastor Jaeger accepted a new call.

During the years that Pastor Jaeger served Mishicot, more visible proof was added that there was a growing congregation and the people desired to have a house especially built where they could gather to hear the Gospel. In 1875 a church of frame structure was built and served the Mishicot congregation until 1927. Before 1875 we can only assume that services were held in that school where the group organized, or like places, and by 1875, the gatherings became larger than places used before were no longer adequate. The church was built on lot No. 6 on the present open space between church and parsonage. As is today when building or improving, the cost must be met. In 1881 with the church building debt not yet cleared together with other expenses, we find the voters of the congregation setting a figure of \$3.00 as membership dues. In 1881 we also find that then too, there were those who regarded the church as someplace to go to for marrying and burying and not much otherwise, that a special meeting was called May 26, declaring that only church members would be buried by the congregation pastor and from the church. During the year 1881 until early in 1882, Pastor Prohl served the Mishicot Lutherans.

Subsequently, for twenty years, Mishicot was again supplied by the pastors of the Two Rivers congregation: Pastor John Ph. Koehler (1882-88) who was later the director of our Seminary at Wauwatosa, Pastor A.F. Siegler (1888-92), and Pastor Christian Doepler (1892-1902).

In 1902, Pastor Gustav Vater, a young man, came to serve the people of Mishicot. It was at this time that the congregation here and of Rockwood (Kossuth township) went together to form a parish and be served by the same pastor. The present parsonage was built in Mishicot during these early years of the twentieth century. In 1906 the voters sought to give their pastor a little additional needed support by requesting each member to provide a bag of oats for his horse or give \$1.00 in cash. Money was a scarce item yet during these years but the faithful member would think of his pastor's needs and share or give a portion of his food or other produce raised on the farm in addition to the small salary paid by the congregation. Pastor Vater and his young family stayed here until another call took him to a different parish in 1907. We have the knowledge that he died in 1953. His successor was Pastor E. Ph. Dornfield, a native of Milwaukee, who today resides in the Milwaukee suburb of Brookfield, WI. Pastor Dornfield also came here as a young man and was married while pastor of our congregation. He, however, received a call early in 1911 to take his father's congregation, St. Mark's in Milwaukee and was there until a few years ago when he accepted a call to the small congregation at Brookfield. The vacancy resulting from pastor Dornfield's move was again filled by Pastor Siegler of Two Rivers. This year, 19911, was the half-century mark for our congregation and it was decided to observe the occasion in the fall of that year with special services.

was also in 1911 that the congregation called a student at our seminary at Wauwatosa to be their pastor when graduated from the school. He was Edward F. Zell, born at Minnesota Junction, Dodge County, WI, the youngest child of a family of three girls and a boy. Although he was left motherless at an early age, their father, realizing the importance of a woman in bringing up children, allowed the, to be brought up in other homes. Those who cared for the son, Edward, saw fit to send him to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran School, Juneau, WI. Being thus brought to the knowledge of God's Word, these eight years he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to continue in the study of the Word and went on to Watertown and the Seminary at Wauwatosa from which he graduated in 1911. He was ordained in the Holy Ministry on July 23, 1911. In the first fifty years of our existence as a congregation, we were served by thirteen or more pastors.

In 1912 electric lights were installed in the school building, which was moved from the Mishicot main street and once served as the post office, the church, and the parsonage. It was also in this year that Pastor Zell married Alice K. Jindra, a member of the congregation and one of the organists here. In November 1912, Pastor Zell was called to serve the Norwegian congregation at Jambo Creek in the town of Gibson. It had been served by Rev. J.C.K. Preuss. The last Norwegian service wad held there October 23, 1912. It became a member of the Wisconsin Synod in 1921 and was taken care of by Pastor Zell until it disbanded June 19, 1949, with a membership of 24 souls.

In February 1913, Pastor Zell received a call to leave Mishicot but the congregation voted in favor of his remaining with them and they raised his salary \$50 making a total of \$450 per year. This is the first of three calls that were recorded that Rev. Zell received, the others coming in April and may 1924. Each time the vote was unanimous in favoring of his remaining.

At a meeting of the voters in June 1914, the school term was changed from a six-month to an eight-month session. The school curriculum included mainly religious secular studies. The teachers that served the congregation's school were a Miss Kirchner and Miss L. Sauer, now Mrs. Fromader, Jefferson, WI. The school building continued to serve the congregation until it was in the way for the erection of the new church in 1925 when it was sold for \$90 and moved back to Main Street to become Shedivy's Harness Shop.

In 1915, there began to be talk of having more property although it was voted down at one meeting. In a meeting held October 8, 1916, it was decided to buy one lot from the Eli Peltier Property for \$250. It was also in 1915 that the system of giving by the envelope and recording gifts was begun.

In 1915, the pastor's salary was raised \$100 a year because the members were not abiding by the bag of oats or \$1 cash per member toward the support of the pastor's needs. Organ players received \$.50 a Sunday or service in this year. The bell which called or reminded the congregation of the worship service had become broken and a new one was bought in this year. The new bell which we still use today is made of a copper containing alloy and weighs about one ton. It consists of the swinging bell with also a hammer situated so it will hit the bell proper to be used for tolling purposes.

/20 was the year the English language was started to be used in our church services. The last Sunday of the month, an evening English service was held for a while and on October 3, it was voted to have the last regular Sunday service of the month an English one.

At a meeting on January 12, 1921, the annual meeting date was changed to the second Wednesday in June from January. On October 9 of this year, the 60th Anniversary of the congregation was celebrated.

To keep the congregation mindful of the rules pertaining to the governing of them, it was moved and passed in a meeting held June 14m, 1922 to have the Constitution and by-laws of the congregation read at every annual meeting.

In September of 1923, the voters decided a sewer should be dug to the river to take care of septic tank and other drainage from the parsonage. This also provided similar advantages for many dwellings between the parsonage and river as others attached their drains at this time also. The first mention of building a new church was made at this time. The old church had become rather small and in need of repair and the question was which to proceed with – repair and remodel the old or make new. The decision was a hard one and all were asked to give their opinion. Each was asked to give in writing his idea concerning the problem and how much money he would be able to give in either case. About a year later, March 1925, a committee was appointed to see those members who did not respond to the request of volunteering their ideas in regard to the building problem. We can assume that most members were in favor of the new building because at the meeting a formal subscription or pledge was decided upon which members should sign and state the amount they could give for the construction of the new building. The following may 1925 seemed to be the time for the deciding note on the matter. So with a vote of 37 to 1, the decision was made to build a new church. A seven man committee was appointed as a building committee who should look at other churches and plan a way to finance the matter and report at the next meeting. This was done and in July 1925 the choice of stone or concrete block had to be made by the voters according to the committee's recommendations. The vote was 30 for stone and 17 for the block. The next question was when to begin, fall or next spring. The vote was 31 for the coming fall and 14 to wait till spring. A motion was now made to leave all building matter up to the building committee from here on. The members of the committee were: George Barthels, Ed Eckardt, George Jindra, Jr., Richard Schroeder, Paul Sehloff, Charles Stechmesser and Henry Thielbar. All are presently deceased except George Jindra of Dickey, N.D. and Paul Sehloff of Route 2, Two Rivers, WI.

Since Lot No. 6 or the lot upon which the old church stood was a corner lot bordered by Randolph Street on the south and Elm Street on the west, and since the lot bought from the Peltiers in 1916 was across the street according to the original Plat of Mishicot, it was decided to do some negotiating to try to have all of the church property together. So a meeting was held with the Mishicot Town Board to have the road moved over one lot to where Elm Street is now instead of as planned and platted to be where the church now stands. Therefore two lots were involved in this action so the

congregation allowed the road to be placed on their lot and as a gift to the congregation toward the building fund, Mrs. Peltier, a congregation member, gave the land upon which the church building now stands.

So the building project began in the fall of 1925 and June 1926, a major item of interest was the report of the Building Fund treasurer to see if gifts were meeting the expenses incurred by the building procedure. Amidst the construction of the new church, another building project was going on which affected the members of St. Peter's also. It was the erection of the new seminary in Thiensville, WI. With the total cost divided or figured for each facility, the people of our congregation gave more than the minimum or quota set for them.

In November of 1925, at the unveiling of the nameplate ceremony, there was still present one of the original charter members of the congregation. She was Mrs. Blum and she also was able to witness such progress, from no congregation in early 1861 to the movement into a second church in 1927.

The granite stone that was used to build the church was quarried at Red Granite, WI and came by rail to Francis Creek from where the members of Mishicot hauled the rock by wagon to Mishicot. The architect for the building was a Karl Koehler, a former professor at our school in Watertown, WI. When looking at the building from the top, it is built in the form of a cross with the steeple or front forming the end of the lower part of the cross and the wings containing the side entrances forming the cross member. The inside of the church was built in three levels, two lower ones making up the main auditorium and the upper level to be used for school purposes and overflow church attendance. The method of building the structure was that one used by the late George Whiting Flagg who designed the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. The actual stone work was done by Edward Wegner, a Mishicot contractor who stills lives at Route 1, Mishicot. The woodwork was done by a local carpenter, Matt Zima.

By August 22, 1926, the new structure was so far completed that it could be used for services. The next step was now to begin the process of disposing of the old church. An auction held among the members seemed to be the way to handle it. By this method the building was purchased by George Barthels for \$380. A good amount of lumber was salvaged and could be used for other construction as he saw need. It was also at this meeting in August 1926 that it became necessary to borrow \$5,000 to meet some current expenses.

The Christmas Eve and other holiday services were held in the new church in spite of the dirt floor. The cement work in and around the premises was not completed until May 14, 1927.

The formal day of dedication of the new house of worship was set as June 12, 1927. Three former pastors – Doepler, Dornfield and Vater – took part in the event.

The total cost of the church as stated in the contractor's itemized bill was just a little below \$30,000.

At a meeting in March 1928, the church building was accepted by the congregation from the building committee and the building committee disbanded.

The language with which the services were conducted had made a complete reverse in about ten years. We find that on June 11, 1930 it was decided 43-14 to have a German service on the first Sunday of each month and this was carried on for some years until the regular services were all English and an afternoon service in the German language and by 1957 the German language was no longer used in the church service.

In the fall of 1931 the 70th anniversary was celebrated in three separate Sunday services on August 30, September 6 and September 13. In contrast, the 75 anniversary was celebrated on one Sunday with three services.

In 1932 a group of girls of the congregation under the direction of Miss Alice Zell formed a girls choir. Later on in 1936 a junior choir made up of 7th to 9th grades was also taken care of by Miss Zell. This has resulted in the mixed choir she now directs.

In 1933 the interested ladies of the congregation assembled together for the first time to begin the Ladies Bible Hour. Its main purpose was to study the Bible with the help of the pastor. They also have extra envelopes where as a body they have often given new furnishing and have helped keep up and beautify the church.

Since the celebration of the 75th anniversary of our congregation in 1936 until 1942 things were rather quiet for St. Peter's. In 1942, however, our church property was increased to double its size by the purchase of the three lots directly behind the three lots we owned before. It was purchased from one of our members at the time, Henry Redeker Jr. and wife. It was obtained to alleviate the parking problem on the highway in front of church but was used for a number of years as a garden and bean field.

Again during the next four years maintenance and repair were the main items taking their place in the upkeep of a property.

In 1946 the 85th Jubilee of the congregation's existence was held on November 17 with four sons of the congregation taking part. They were Pastors Kenneth Vertz, George Barthels, Ed Zell, Jr. as those who delivered the sermons and seminary student William Zell as liturgist.

On September 26, 1948 it was decided to start an organ fund. The organ used at this time had been moved from the old church and was remodeled from a foot-operated bellows to a mechanical blower operated organ. To the ordinary listener, it still served the purpose so the organ fund did not grow very rapidly. By 1954 the need was more noticeable so more response was appreciated in the organ fund and it was decided that when the fund reached \$2,500, a new one should be purchased. A

Committee was appointed to examine various organs and price them. In 1955, the new Conn Electronic Organ was installed. The installation included the erection of a tone chamber behind the school room wall up among the truss-work of the roof. This is the third organ that the congregation has had in the 100 years.

In 1951 it was approved to have the concrete floor of the church covered with an asphalt or rubber tile. This added color to the lower section of the church and the biggest advantage was the ease with which the floor could be cleaned. In 1953 the decorative iron railings were placed on all steps and on the wall in front of the church.

In 1953, seating facilities became a little inadequate at times so two more long pews were obtained and placed where the organ stood on the second level just in front of the schoolroom doors. The organ was moved to the center of the back wall on the Sunday School room and chairs set in that section to increase the seating capacity for church attendance. This remained this way until the new organ was purchased and located on the second level of the church in the northeast corner of that part. The sliding glass doors dividing the church and schoolroom were removed in 1957 and in 1959, the floor of the school room area was slanted and pews installed there to match the arrangement of the rest of the church. This increased the seating capacity by more than 100.

Also in 1953, the garden and bean field was transformed into the intended parking area with flood lights to be used at the time of evening services or other events that automobiles need not be parked on the road in front of church.

On the 14th of June 1953, the congregation presented Pastor and Mrs. Zell with the keys to a new car which was delivered to them in August of that year. It was on the occasion of their 41st wedding anniversary, having held a service for them with Pastor William Zell preaching.

In 1954 the kitchen area of the parsonage was given a major remodeling to modernize it and make it more pleasant and convenient so that it compared with what many of the members were enjoying in their homes. In 1954 new sidewalks and a blacktop driveway were the items of improvement around the parsonage.

In 1956 a considerable amount of repair work was necessary to the altarnage. The church tower had allowed water to enter and loosen much plaster in that part of the church. The repair work was done and the new plaster and the entire church interior was painted soon after.

On June 9, 1956, it was voted to purchase a public address system for our church. The opening up of the Sunday School room added an extra strain on a speaker to have people back there hear well. Also it provided sound for the basement area if parents had to leave the main part of the church with children or other reasons.

On July 23, 1956, a special church service was held honoring Pastor Zell on the date of his 45th anniversary since he was installed as pastor of the Mishicot congregation. His two sons Edward and William Zell served as liturgists and Pastor Delton Tills, a son of the Rockwood congregation, preached the sermon.

1958 was a year that unfolded quite a few different experiences to the members of St. Peter's of Mishicot. Being in failing health for a period of a few years, Pastor Zell, shepherd of the Mishicot-Rockwood congregations for nearly 47 years, preached his last sermons to these congregations on January 26. On February 1, the acuteness of his heart ailment caused him to be hospitalized. The Lord allowing him to suffer here for only four weeks, granted him a peaceful death on the last day of February. Pastor K. Vertz officiated at his burial, Pastor Tills having the committal, Wm. Redecker sang a solo.

Even though his congregations were served by other pastors of the Manitowoc Conference, it still left them feeling as sheep without a shepherd. After so many years, Pastor Zell was the only pastor many in these congregations ever had. Upon his death, the vacancy was filled by Pastor Breiling of Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Two Rivers. He served us until he installed the new pastor for their parish, Pastor David Worgull on June 28. During the 47 years Pastor Zell performed the following official duties: 648 baptisms, 579 confirmed, performed 211 marriages and officiated at 246 burials. These are not only from Mishicot but Rockwood and Jambo Creek as well. Mrs. Zell has remained here as a member of St. Peter's.

Pastor Worgull is a native of Milwaukee, WI, the youngest on a family of one son and daughters. He attended years of parochial school at . He attended eight years of school at Northwestern College, Watertown, WI and graduated from our Seminary at Thiensville in 19 . On June , the day after graduation, he and Miss Marion Laabs of Cedarburg, WI were united in holy wedlock. Soon after, they left for Cibeque, Arizona where Pastor Worgull had accepted a call as missionary among the Apache Indians. Being there for about years, he received a call to St. Paul's congregation of Napar, Nebraska and was there until called by the congregations of this parish, Mishicot and Rockwood.

Before Pastor and Mrs. Worgull became settled in the parsonage, a portion of the house was enclosed to allow the pastor more privacy in his study room and more easily accessible through the west entrance of the house. In September of 1958, the voters authorized the pastor to purchase a mimeograph machine which would be used for weekly church bulletins and other uses.

In 1959, we note the beginning of a two-week summer course to be attended by all children of school in the congregation. It was managed by teachers and helpers from the congregation under the direction of the pastor.

At the annual meeting on June 14, 1959, the voters approved the erection of a new garage for the

parsonage. This was done early in 1960 after a member, Dan Shimek, removed the old one. Carpenter contractor Wm. Thielbar, also a congregation member, built the new two-car garage attached to the parsonage by an enclosed breezeway. Also in the new year, under the leadership of the church council, a complete landscaping project was undertaken. They chose to remove all old trees and shrubs that had outlived their time of beauty or did not fit into the new suggested plan from a landscaping advisor and began a new arrangement with lawn, trees, and shrubs so that by the centennial year, things would be well on their way as far as growing and lawn hardiness were concerned. Also the church sign board given as memorials was erected in 1960. Also a centennial committee was appointed to plan a God-pleasing commemoration of 100 years of having the Word among us. They were Hugo Ploeckelmann, Hugh Holst, Ralph Schmidt, Art Meissner, Wm. Thielbar, Wilmer Meissner, Gordon Lebehagen, Francis VanderLogt, Oscar Barthels, Dale Meineke, and Emil Schleis, Jr. with Pastor Worgull.

Before the 100th year was officially over on May 20, 1961, the Mishicot congregation again spread its boundary lines. The voters at a March quarterly meeting approved the purchase of about four acres of the Radzinski property which bounds our present property on the north and extends to the northwest.

1965 - Pastor Worgull accepted a call to Menasha, WI after serving seven years as pastor at St. Peter's. Pastor A. Schmeling served as vacancy pastor until November 1966. Parsonage remodeled at a cost of \$10,500.

1966 - Pastor Herbert Kesting of Gibbon, Minnesota installed.

1967 - Joint meeting of the Rockwood and St. Peter's Young People's Society resumed.

1968 - An assistant used to help with communion.

1969 - Upstairs of the parsonage remodeled. New gas-fired furnace installed in the church.

1970 - One envelope system begun, new light fixtures for the church dedicated, new bathroom for the parsonage, Board of Education appointed.

1971 - Voters approved a large addition to the church. First pictorial church directory planned. Celebration of the 35 anniversary of Pastor' Kesting's ordination.

1972 - Easter ground breaking for the addition of the Education Wing. Additional land purchased for more parking. Dedication of the Addition on October 22, 1972.

1973 - Miss Alice Zell recognized for having directed the choir for 40 years. Ladies Bible Hour observed its 40th anniversary. Introduction of "Greeters" at the church exits after services.

1974 - Parking lot blacktopped. Baptistry renovated. A new piano received for the Choir room.

1976 - The steam boiler changed to a hot water system. Saturday School started. The beginning of Monday evening services for the three summer months.

1977 - Church tower repaired. Kathy Barthels commissioned as missionary nurse to Africa.

1979 - Church interior redecorated, beautiful red carpeting laid, Lexon windows installed over the stained glass windows, church phone installed.

1981 - New gas furnace for parsonage.

1982 - New roof over Educational Wing, a new Public Address system installed, organ fund started, new Sunday School material introduced, "Reaching Out" launched.

1983 - A Mortgage Burning service held on June 26, also the electronic Carillon donated by Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Eisenman dedicated. An extra communion service per month added with individual cups, common cup celebrated on the last Sunday of the month.

1984 - Pastor Kesting retired after serving 18 years at St. Peter's. Pastor David Waege called from Valentine, Nebraska to serve our combined parish. Installation service was March 3, 1985.

1985 - Monday evening services to continue through the year.

1986 - Voters approved opening a Christian Day school, starting with grades K-2 in the fall of 1986. A call was accepted by Miss Bonnie Enter of Green Bay. The celebration of our 125th anniversary, May through November, with guest preachers each month.

1989 - Jason Muench from Prairie du Chien, WI accepts the call to be first full-time principal at St. Peter's school.

1990 - Pastor candidate Rodney Rixe is assigned to serve the Rockwood congregation and our dual parish relationship concludes.

1993 - School is merged with that of St. John's Gibson to form East Twin Lutheran School.  
New organ is dedicated.

1995 - Parking lot blacktop is replaced. James Price serves the congregation as its first resident vicar.

1996 - Pastor Waege accepts the Lord's call to serve the church at large as Planned Giving Counselor for the Minnesota District. Pastor Daniel Drews, a member of the faculty at Winnebago Lutheran Academy, is called from Fond du Lac, WI. Installation service was on August 4, 1996. New vinyl replacement windows are installed in the parsonage.

1997 - Jonathan Meyer of Fond du Lac, WI is called to serve as Principal of ETLS and Minister of Youth Education for St. Peter's. Installation was August 24, 1997.

At that time, St. Peter's had 524 communicant members and 696 baptized souls.

The opportunity to immigrants to settle for a reason is lengthy of time. The Smith Cumber Company was the one to set up their operations around Minocqua in the year 1853.

Among those who settled here, there were also a good number of staunch believers in the Lord who realized that their successful immigration from the European countries was not merely a case of good luck but that their prayers for guidance and protection had been answered and they were now privileged to be a part of something new and wonderful in a new continent. There were settlers from more than one country in this area, but whether they traveled here together or whether they met each other after they settled, as is customary, people with the same interests, customs, and ideals just naturally seem to bond together and enjoy each other's companionship and friendship. Some very likely moved along with the lumbering frontier but many saw that the land which grew the splendid timber-leading trees also would provide for them and their families if used to raise crops for food and feed for livestock. Thus the agriculture industry continued or followed the lumber business and still is one of the main industries one hundred years later.

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